



STATE OF ARKANSAS  
MIKE BEEBE  
GOVERNOR

July 2, 2014

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioners Clyburn, O'Rielly, Pai, and Rosenworcel:

On behalf of the educators in the State of Arkansas, I am writing to express our support for Chairman Wheeler's proposal to modernize the E-rate program, prioritize broadband, and provide the funding needed to bring high-speed wireless access to Arkansas's K-12 classrooms.

Our teachers and students are increasingly using online content, educational applications, and teaching tools to improve learning outcomes and to prepare our students for success in the knowledge economy. Yet, today, nearly 60 percent of our schools lack the high-speed wi-fi networks that allow for the effective use of technology in the classroom. Upgrading the wi-fi in our classrooms is critical to our efforts to bring equal educational opportunity to all of our students, and it is imperative that the Commission act this summer to begin closing the wi-fi gap immediately.

The Chairman's plan also takes necessary and important steps to update the 18-year-old E-rate program, including lowering broadband costs through price transparency and easing the administrative burden on districts by simplifying the application process. This E-rate order represents a major step forward for connectivity in America's classrooms. I urge you to support Chairman Wheeler's plan on July 11<sup>th</sup> and then to continue the modernization process by taking the additional steps necessary to increase the affordability of broadband and ensure that every school has the resources it needs to meet the ConnectED connectivity goals. Thank you for your attention and prompt action on this critical matter for America's students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Beebe", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Mike Beebe

MB:jb

Commissioner Tom Wheeler, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Tony Wood, Commissioner  
Arkansas Department of Education  
Four Capitol Mall, Room 304-A  
Little Rock, AR 72201